

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 04480 221835Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-12 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-15
CEQ-01 /122 W

-----087687 230641Z /11

R 220911Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0367
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4480

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT ACTION NEW DELHI 21 MARCH 1978
AND IS REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFORMATION.

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 0715

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, IN
SUBJECT: INDIAN NUCLEAR AFFAIRS

REF: BOMBAY 696, REPEATED DEPARTMENT AS NEW DELHI 4362

1. MARCH 21 EDITIONS OF BOMBAY'S LEADING ENGLISH-LANGUAGE
NEWSPAPERS CONTINUED TO GIVE BIG PLAY TO RAMANNA'S TRANSFER.
THE TIMES OF INDIA FOLLOWED UP ITS FRONTPAGE STORY OF MARCH
20 WITH EDITORIAL URGING RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION TO TRANS-
FER RAMANNA "IN THE LARGER INTERESTS OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS."
INDIAN EXPRESS CARRIED TOP OF FRONTPAGE SIX COLUMN PHOTO STORY
ENTITLED "BARC AGHAST: RAMANNA TRANSFER." NEITHER PAPER
VENTURED ANY EXPLICIT EXPLANATION FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION BUT
BOTH SUGGESTED THAT TRANSFER STEMMED FROM DISAGREEMENT WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 04480 221835Z

GOVERNMENT OVER HANDLING OF FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS ISSUE. IN-
DIAN EXPRESS ADDED "IT IS RUMORED IN KNOWLEDGEABLE CIRCLES
THAT THERE ARE "STRONG DIFFERENCES ON POLICY MATTERS BETWEEN
DR. SETHNA AND DR. RAMANNA." HOWEVER, EXPRESS ALSO NOTED THAT
"DR. RAMANNA'S TRANSFER...HAS COME AT AN UNPLEASANT SURPRISE
BOTH TO HIM AND TO DR. H.N. SETHNA..." BOTH PAPERS HIGHLIGHT
RAMANNA'S ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA'S

NUCLEAR PROGRAM OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS. THEY EMPHASIZE THAT SUCH AN INVOLUNTARY TRANSFER IS BOUND TO HAVE A DEEPLY DEPRESSING EFFECT ON INDIA'S SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY.

2. COMMENT: IN GOING OVER NOTES OF MY CONVERSATIONS WITH SETHNA ON SUBJECTS WHERE RAMANNA'S VIEWS WOULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO BE IMPORTANT, I FIND ONLY ONE INDICATION OF A DIFFERENCE OF VIEW BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS OF THE INDIAN NUCLEAR ESTABLISHMENT. SHORTLY AFTER MY RETURN FROM LEAVE IN THE U.S. EARLY THIS YEAR, I DREW TO SETHNA'S ATTENTION AN ARTICLE RAMANNA HAD AUTHORED FOR BLITZ, THE ANTI-AMERICAN, OFTEN SCURRILOUS, WEEKLY WHICH HAS INDIA'S LARGEST CIRCULATION (ISSUE OF 1/21/78). I OBSERVED THAT THIS WAS AN ODD OUTLET FOR A SERIOUS PIECE, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT DEALT LARGELY, ALTHOUGH INDIRECTLY, WITH AN ISSUE UNDER ACTIVE NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE US AND INDIA.. SETHNA OBSERVED THAT RAMANNA HAD WRITTEN ARTICLE IN HIS CAPACITY OF PRESIDENT OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY (INSA), AS WAS MADE CLEAR IN THE BY-LINE. HE ALSO SAID THAT WE HAD TO UNDERSTAND THAT IN ADDITION TO BEING HEAD OF BARC, RAMANNA WAS ALSO THE LEADER OF THE INDIAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND IN THAT ROLE HE HAD TO GIVE PUBLIC EXPRESSION TO ISSUES THAT WERE ACTIVE IN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY. HE ENDED THAT CONVERSATION BY NOTING THAT SUCH ARTICLES IN PAPERS LIKE BLITZ RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT IAEC THAT ARE BETTER KEPT IN PROFESSIONAL CIRCLES.
COURTNEY UNQUOTE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 04480 221835Z

GOHEEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, SCIENTISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE04480
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780127-0932
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780337/aaaabfkn.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b45dc1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BOMBAY 696
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3239420
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN NUCLEAR AFFAIRS
TAGS: MNUC, IN, (RAMANNA, RAJA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b45dc1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014